

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 294043

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG APER FAO

SUBJECT: EMPLOYMENT OF U.S. NATIONALS BY FAO

REF: A. ROME 19372; B. ROME 18824; C. ROME 18136

1. MULHERN AND APPLE WITHDRAWALS REPORTED REFTEL A ARE OBVIOUS SETBACKS. HOWEVER, PLEASE ASSURE SAOUMA THAT USG WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY CANDIDATES FOR POST DECLINED BY MULHERN AND OTHER FAO POSTS AND IS CONFIDENT THAT SUITABLE ONES CAN BE FOUND. ALSO, FEEL CONFIDENT THAT CURTIS JACKSON WOULD ACCEPT POSITION DECLINED BY APPLE.

2. DR. PHILLIPS, USDA, WHO CURRENTLY IN ROME HAS WITH HIM NAMES OF POSSIBLE CANDIDATES FOR POSTS REFERRED TO IN PARA 8, REFTEL B, AS FOLLOWS:

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PAGE 02 STATE 294043

A. DIRECTOR OF DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES, INSTITUTIONS AND AGRARIAN REFORM. MELVIN C. BLASE, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI.

B. LEGAL COUNSEL. RICHARD HARSH, DEPUTY LEGAL COUNSEL, USDA. ALSO, JORGE L. CORDOVA, FORMER PEACE CORPS GENERAL COUNSEL, WHOSE APPLICATION POUCHED BY IO/IR TO HIGGINSON NOVEMBER 19, SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS POST IN ADDITION TO PEIDER KONZ, WHOSE APPLICATION SAOUMA ALREADY HAS.

C. DIRECTOR OF STATISTICS DIVISION. CHARLES W. FRENCH, DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE ECON., PURDUE, AND J.M. PLEXICO, DEPT. OF AG. ECON., OKLAHOMA STATE.

3. PLEASE CONCERT WITH DR. PHILLIPS IN DISCUSSING THESE CANDIDATES WITH SAOUMA. PLEASE NOTE THAT FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE PRIVACY OF THE CANDIDATES, ANY CABLES REGARDING THEM SHOULD CARRY QUOTE LIMDIS UNQUOTE AND QUOTE FOR IO ONLY UNQUOTE DEISGNATORS.

4. RE REFTEL C, PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MEETING WITH SAOUMA TO ASK, IN LOW-KEY MANNER, IF HE HAS HAD CHANCE TO PERSONALLY DIGEST THE DATA CONTAINED IN LETTER ON FAO EMPLOYMENT OF U.S. PERSONNEL. IN CONCILIATORY FASHION YOU MAY TELL SAOUMA THAT WE ALL SURPRISED BY REPORT THAT HE SOMEWHAT UNHAPPY WITH LETTER AND THAT PERHAPS YOU COULD CLARIFY SPIRIT IN WHICH IT WAS PREPARED AND DELIVERED. LETTER WAS CAREFULLY WORDED SO AS NOT TO IN ANY WAY IMPINGE ON HIS AUTHORITY AND AS INDICATED THEREIN IS A PROPOSAL QUOTE MADE IN GOOD FAITH IN THE HOPES THAT (HE) WILL SEE MERIT IN A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO RESOLVING OUR MUTUAL PROBLEM, I.E., THE LOW NUMBER OF AMERICANS ON THE STAFF. UNQUOTE.

5. RE MANNER LETTER WAS PRESENTED, FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND HOW THIS COULD CAUSE REPORTED DISPLEASURE ON SAOUMA'S PART. PERHAPS THIS BECAUSE COPY GIVEN TO DAVIES. HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF DAVIES' RESPONSIBILITY FOR PERSONNEL, AND HIS SPECIFIC INVOLVEMENT WITH LINING UP CANDIDATES FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 294043

SAOUMA TO INTERVIEW IN WASHINGTON, SUCH A TRANSMITTAL ON PART OF DEP US REP APPEARED LOGICAL. FURTHERMORE SINCE IT WOULD LOGICALLY BE EXPECTED THAT DAVIES WOULD HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SAOUMA DURING PERIOD SAOUMA EN ROUTE TO WASHINGTON (OCTOBER 16-25), IT REASONABLE TO CONCEIVE THAT DAVIES, AS PERSONNEL DIRECTOR, WOULD HAVE WANTED TO GET SUBSTANCE OF LETTER TO SAOUMA WITH APPROPRIATE COMMENTS. APPARENTLY, THIS WAS NOT DONE, BUT

STILL WOULD HAVE BEEN REASONABLE EXPECTATION.

6. RE PARA 4, REFTEL C, APPARENTLY FAO HAS MISINTERPRETED OUR REQUEST FOR THE GRADUAL RAISE IN OUR RANGE. AT NO POINT DID WE INDICATE THAT THIS SHOULD ALL BE FOR POSITIONS AT THE D-LEVEL AND HIGHER. WHILE WE WANT A QUOTE FAIR UNQUOTE SHARE AT THAT LEVEL, OUR PLAN WAS CLEARLY AIMED AT A U.S. RANGE OF 15 PERCENT OF THE PROFESSIONAL JOBS ACROSS THE BOARD, AND WE WOULD CERTAINLY EXPECT THEM TO BE AT ALL LEVELS.

7. RE FAO SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT, CONTAINED PARA 4, REFTEL C, OFFER FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A. ASSOCIATE EXPERT PROGRAM. AS SAOUMA KNOWS, VALUE OF AE PROGRAM RECOGNIZED BY USG AND EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO SECURE AUTHORIZATION AND FUNDING FOR U.S. PARTICIPATION.

B. PRESENT CANDIDATES AT P-4 LEVEL. WE AGREE THAT P-4 GOOD ENTRANCE LEVEL FOR AMERICANS AND FOR THAT REASON SINCE JANUARY 1976 IO/IR HAS PROPOSED EIGHT CANDIDATES AT THIS LEVEL AND USDA HAS PROPOSED 37. WE WILL CONTINUE TO FEED IN AND WOULD BE PLEASED TO SEE OUR RANGE RISING FROM AMONG THIS GROUP.

C. ESTABLISH SABBATICAL LEAVE ARRANGEMENT. THIS MAY HAVE MERIT AND WILL BE STUDIED.

8. TONE AND TENOR OF US REPT DISCUSSION WITH SAOUMA SHOULD BE CONCILIATORY AND FRIENDLY. WE MADE NO DEMANDS IN THE LETTER AND MAKE NONE NOW. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, MADE A CONCRETE SUGGESTION DESIGNED TO ALLEVIATE U.S. UNDER-REPRESENTATION AND WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 STATE 294043

CONSIDERED WRITTEN RESPONSE.

9. COMMENT : HAVE NO IDEA WHAT COULD HAVE AROUSED SAOUMA'S REPORTED PIQUE AND FEEL IT WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO MEET IT WITH PIQUE ON OUR PART. PERHAPS BY NOW HE WILL HAVE HAD CHANCE TO GIVE LETTER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION IT MERITS. ROBINSON

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